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## **Birkholz Honors Pastor Jon White**

*Senator commends him on his job with the U.S. Department of Justice*

**LANSING-** Senator Patricia Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Township, and former State Representative Mark Jansen, R- Grand Rapids, recognized Pastor Jon White of Grand Rapids on his new position in Washington D.C. in the United States Justice Department in December with a special tribute from the Michigan Legislature. White has served in the department's Bureau of Justice Assistance in the state and local anti-terrorism training program doing intelligence gathering, analysis and briefings for state and local officers across the country, as part of a partnership with the FBI to standardize counter-terrorism preparation.

Jon White left his two West Michigan jobs in April to take on this important role for the federal government. Previously, White served as a Professor of Criminal Justice and the Dean of Social Science at Grand Valley State University, as well as being the pastor of Trinity Congregational Church in Walker.

"I am very proud to know Jon White and have been following his career and his new duties with the Department of Justice," Birkholz said. "His expertise in religious terrorism will serve our country very well. The Department of Justice has made an excellent choice by hiring Jon White."

White has served as a counter-terrorist consultant to law enforcement departments, intelligence agencies, military units, and private corporations throughout the United States and Europe for the past twenty years. He has also provided expert testimony in terrorist-related cases. White has also written many books and columns on the problems of terrorism, militarism, and the relationship between religion and violence.

Attending Western Michigan University, White earned a bachelor's degree in history and religion in 1972 and a master's degree in history in 1974. He also holds a Ph.D. from Michigan State University in Criminal Justice and a Master of Divinity degree from Western Theological Seminary.

-30-

**Editor's Note:** A photo of Senator Birkholz and former State Representative Mark Jansen presenting Jon White with a special tribute from the Michigan Legislature can be found at [www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire).